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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/664,228	09/16/2003	Jerald C. Seelig	619.753	3372
21707	7590	09/28/2004	EXAMINER	
IAN F. BURNS & ASSOCIATES 1575 DELUCCHI LANE, SUITE 222 RENO, NV 89502				LAYNO, BENJAMIN
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
3712				

DATE MAILED: 09/28/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	_____ SEELIG ET AL.
	10/664,228		
	Examiner Benjamin H. Layno	Art Unit 3712	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-35 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-35 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION***Double Patenting***

1. Claims 15-35 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 21 and 25 of copending Application No. 10/245,625. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because both sets of claims recite “a first motor having a central bore and a first drive shaft positioned in the bore, the first drive shaft having a hollow center”, and “a second motor having a second drive shaft extending through the bore and the hollow center of the first drive shaft”. The only difference is that the claims of the present Application No. 10/664228 recite that the first motor moves a first reel, and the second motor moves a second reel, while the claims of copending Application No. 10/245,625 recite that the first motor moves a first hand of a clock, and the second motor moves a second hand of a clock.

This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.

2. Claims 1-14 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-8 and 19-25 of U.S. Patent No. 6,644,663. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because claims 1 and 8 of the present application recite the positioning of the chassis as “thereby allowing the first and second reel assemblies to be positioned without the chassis of the first and second reel assemblies being in-between the first and second reel assemblies”, while claims 1 and 19 of U.S. Patent No.

6,644,663 recite the positioning of the chassis as "the chassis of the first reel assembly being positioned opposite the chassis of the second reel assembly thereby preventing the chassis of the first and second reel assemblies from obstructing a front view of an area substantially between the reels of the first and second reel assemblies".

3. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

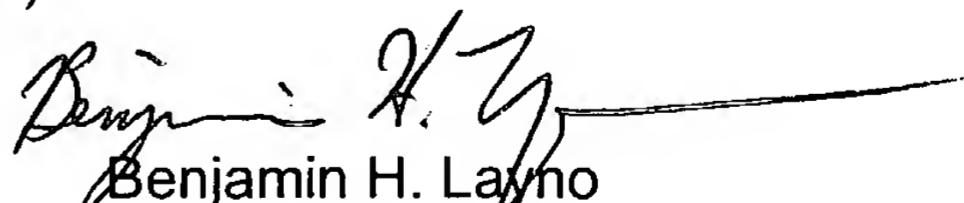
The patents to Canda, Strobel, Davis et al. and Matsumoto all disclose reel mechanisms for use with a gaming system wherein the reels are relatively positioned close to each other reducing the gap between reels found in most conventional slot machines. None of the cited references alone or in combination teach the claimed "thereby allowing the first and second reel assemblies to be positioned without the chassis of the first and second reel assemblies being in-between the first and second reel assemblies".

The patent to Kelly et al. discloses gaming device having a first motor 62 rotating a tube 70 attached to a pointer 42a for rotating the pointer about an axis, and a second motor 58 rotating a shaft attached to a second pointer 42b for rotating the second pointer about an axis. The shaft passes through the tube, see Fig. 2. None of the cited references alone or in combination teach the claimed "second actuator means for rotating a tube attached to the first reel, wherein the shaft passes through the second actuator means and the tube".

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Benjamin H. Layno whose telephone number is (703) 308-1815. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 1st Friday Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Derris Banks can be reached on (703) 308-1745. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Benjamin H. Layno
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3712